



A Message From The Secretary

KDHE will soon begin an exciting new program to help inspire staff to be the best we can be at our jobs, not just with the end product or service, but all during the process. As part of our recent initiative, "Excellence in Service," we are beginning FISH! Training. FISH! is based on an approach to the workplace that Pike Place Fish Market in Seattle, WA adopted several years ago.

It incorporates the following four elements into the workday:

Play - Having fun at work, while doing work.

Make Their Day – Engaging with customers and fellow employees to create memories.

Be There – Being present (in the moment) with customers and fellow employees.

Choose Your Own Attitude – Accepting responsibility for the attitude we bring to work everyday and having a good attitude at work.

We believe this training is an exiting opportunity for staff and will result in improved job satisfaction and better customer service, and will provide a new framework from which to operate and solve daily challenges.

This month at the annual Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson, KDHE will be highlighting two exciting agency programs: Healthy Kansas and Get Caught Recycling. Anyone visiting the KDHE booth will be asked if they'd like to fill out a Healthy Kansas pledge card which requests everyone do three things to improve their health: improve nutrition, increase physical activity and eliminate tobacco products. Participants receive a certificate and a letter from Governor Sebelius thanking them for taking steps to make themselves and therefore, Kansas healthier. The Get Caught Recycling program recently concluded a large contest asking Kansans to submit creative art, articles, web information or other materials depicting how they or someone they know were "getting caught recycling." Winners will be announced Sept. 12 at the fair and receive cash prizes as well as scholarships. We'd like to thank the many participants in this contest and are we are very pleased with the growing interest in recycling that we see in Kansas. We encourage Kansans to continue looking for ways to "get caught recycling!"

The KDHE management team will conclude the 2006 District Listening Tour in Lawrence on Wednesday, September 27 from 6-7 p.m.. As has occurred at previous stops, the meeting will address health and environment related issues and seek comments from business and community partners, customers, area legislators and the public. The Lawrence meeting will be held at the KDHE district office, 800 W. 24th Street.

As we move into the fall months, keep in mind the importance of handwashing to prevent the spread of disease. Flu season can start as early as September, but typically doesn't begin in Kansas until November. Still, we should begin getting into good habits now to ensure we aren't spreading viruses and that we are in the best possible health. In addition to handwashing, remember to eat plenty of fruits and vegetable, drink plenty of fluids, and exercise to stay healthy. And if you do get sick, cover your cough and stay home.

Be well,